

and the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) led by high level officials visited Kuwait recently. A delegation from the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) is also likely to visit Kuwait during this month.

(b) M/s. Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL), a Public Sector enterprise, have secured contracts of approximately of the order of \$ 20 million, and about 250 technicians from TCIL are employed. Besides, some private transportation companies are reported to have secured orders for roughly \$10 million.

#### Export of Agricultural Products to Gulf Countries

2365. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to send a delegation to gulf countries to discuss and finalise the export of agricultural products, processed food items and spices; and

(b) if so, the total foreign exchange likely to be earned from the export of these products?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) A seven member trade delegation of leading Indian exporters headed by Chairman, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has recently visited three Gulf countries for the promotion and export of agricultural products, processed foods and spices.

(b) As export is an on-going process, the total foreign exchange likely to be earned cannot be estimated.

#### Supply to Consumer Goods to Kuwait

2366. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation propose to resume

the supply of consumer goods to Kuwait;

- (b) if so, by when; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMRE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. STC has posted a Manager in Kuwait recently.

- (c) Does not arise.

[English] 68

#### Border Clashes with Pakistan

2367. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and nature of border clashes with Pakistan during the last one year;

(b) the number of persons killed/wounded on Indian side in these clashes;

(c) the compensation paid to family of the victimss and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) :

(a) to (d) No border clashes took place on the Indo-Pak borders between the security forces of India and Pakistan during the last year. However, there have been incidents of exchange of fire between Indian and Pakistani forces across the Line of Control and in the Siachen Glacier region in J & K, during this period resulting in some casualties on both sides. It would not be desirable to disclose details.

2. The Directors General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan have been in weekly telephonic contact with each other.

3. Next of kin of Army personnel who are treated as battle casualties are authorised liberalised pensionary benefits as per details given below :

#### Liberalised Pensionary award :

(a) Liberalised Family pension at the rate of last pay drawn till death or disqualification.

(b) Family gratuity at the specified rates ranging between Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 19000/- for officers and Rs. 450/- to Rs. 1600/- for JCOs and ORs, depending on the rank.

(c) Death Gratuity as under \*:-

(i) Less than one year service	2 months pay
(ii) Between 1—5 years service.	6 months pay
(iii) Over 5 years but below 20 years service	12 months pay
(iv) 20 years or over service	One month's pay for every completed year of service subject to maximum of 33 months or Rs. 1 lakh, which ever is less.

\* Weightage of five years is added to the actual service rendered for calculation, subject to the total qualifying service not exceeding 33 years. In case actual service is less than 5 years, no weightage is given.

4. Other benefits granted in such cases are as under (educational concessions are available only in case of battle casualties in Siachen and certain other listed military operations) :-

(i) *Employment Assistance*

Upto two dependents of Service personnel killed or severely wounded in the operations are entitled to priority IIA for employment in Group 'C' and 'D' posts filled through DG E&T/ Employment Exchanges.

(ii) *Educational Concessions*

Children of Defence personnel killed or disabled in action, who are studying in educational institutions under the Department of Education, are entitled to the following educational concessions:-

(a) Complete exemption from tuition fee and other fees levied by the educational institution concerned;

(b) Grants to meet hostel charges in full for those studying in Boarding Schools and Colleges;

(c) Full cost of books and stationery;

(d) Full cost of uniform where this is compulsory.

5. Additional benefits admissible include Army Group Insurance Benefits; Financial Assistance from Army Officer's Benevolent Fund, Army Wives Welfare Association Fund and Army Relief Fund; grant for construction/repair of houses and for the marriages of daughters and concession in rail travel. The benefits listed in this para are made available from the non-public funds of the Service.

70 *Customs Appraisers service*

2368. SHRI RAM NIHORE RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether recruitment is done to various Group 'A' and Group 'B' services through the Civil Services Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission;

(b) whether in all the Group 'B' services; when promotion is done to the corresponding Group 'A' services, the pay scale given is Rs. 3000—4500;

(c) whether in Customs Appraisers Service, the pay scale of Rs. 2200—4000 is given on promotion to Group 'A' service;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to remove this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE : IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) :

(a) A list of various Group 'A' and Group 'B' Services, where recruitment is done through the Civil Services Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, is given in the attached statement.